

**The FINAL COUNT:**  
\$46,764 was raised  
in this year's  
chance-book drive.

# HIGH POINT

J. YACILA

Vol. 8, No. 4

BISHOP FORD CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mar. - Apr., 1984

**PARENTS' NIGHT**  
will be held on  
**TUESDAY, MAY 1**  
at 6.30 p.m.

## SENIORS WIN 44 REGENTS SCHOLARSHIPS



The following have been designated winners in the New York State Regents Scholarship competition or alternates in the New York State Regents Nursing Scholarship competition: Bottom row, left to right: Theresa McEvoy (nursing alternate), Laura Prior (nursing alternate), Maria Sciascia (nursing alternate), Anthony Giglio, Michael Paladine, Catherine Lau, Jennifer Mills, Karen Boan, Mary Kilkenny, Corinne Noonan, Christine Noonan, Lisa Costagliola, Donna Homan, Anita Armstrong. Top row, left to right: Paula Johnson (nursing alternate), Brian Wick, George Highman, Louis Hernandez, Joseph Tesoriero, Jeremiah Hester, Marko Bradica, Stephanie Kieszak, William Brennan, Adrienne Palmieri, Peter Cossavella, Eileen Slavin, Joseph Saluzzi, Carolyn Barna (nursing alternate), Patricia Dolan, Edward Schloeman, Allison Thomas (nursing alternate), Charles Sweeney, Joann Cardello, Joseph Navarra, Sonia Lopez, Martha Colon, Emelia Knox, Tania Serrano, Alyssa Maresca, Gloria Rodriguez, Nat Tafuri, Joseph Caputo, Paul Vassallo, Michael Durso, James Allen. Camera shy: John Aiello, Rosanna Cimino, Christopher Davis, Susan Garcia, Virginia Pearson, Jose Villar, Ann Maher (nursing alternate), Dolores Martinez (nursing alternate).

### MYSTERY IS SOLVED

by Josephine Diorio and  
Mike Hardman

OH, NO! The Chalk Circle Players are at it again! On May 11th and 12th, the Chalk Circle Players will present their first drama effort in too long a time. In this dazzling portrayal of Sidney Kingsley's "Detective Story," the acting talents of some 26 students are employed.

The play takes place in a squad room in the police department and deals with the lives of the people who find themselves in the room during the course of the day. Most specifically, it deals with James McLeod's (James O'Neil) inability to give in to things

when he believes he's right.

Mr. Mingrone, the director of the play, stated that it is a well-written play and perhaps the best and most difficult play he has directed at Bishop Ford.

The large cast includes, among others, James O'Neil and Christine Vezo as James and Mary McLeod, Robert Grant as Joe Feinson, Josue Rivera as Detective Dakis, Susan Garcia as a shoplifter, Daniel Artz as Charlie, and Adam Turner as Lieutenant Monaghan.

For some this play is only the beginning, for others this will be their last play as Chalk Circle Players. They will take with them memories of a lot of good times and many long-lasting relationships, as well as some extraordinary moments on stage.

### COMMUNICATIONS STUDENTS BEGIN INTERNSHIPS

by Sonia Maria Lopez

During the 1983-84 school year a new course was added to the curriculum of Bishop Ford High School called Communications Internship. The course, organized by Miss Carol Leggio, was designed to teach the students involved aspects of communication arts outside the classroom. The five seniors involved in this course are James Allen, Maureen Cristiano, Anthony Curcio, Sonia Lopez, and Alyssa Maresca.

It is very difficult to establish an internship program for high school students because

many people feel that high school students aren't ready to assume the responsibilities of such a program. For this reason, Sonia Lopez has been the only student placed so far. She has been serving her internship at "The Tablet," the Catholic newspaper of the Brooklyn diocese. She works there one day a week for a period of 3 hours. She has very strong feelings about this program: "Very few high-school students are given the opportunity to work on an internship, so I consider this class an asset, since I hope to pursue a career in the field

of journalism. The experience I have gained cannot be compared with classroom study; as the saying goes, 'Experience is the best teacher!'

Maureen Cristiano and Alyssa Maresca are in the process of being placed at Channel 13. Maureen feels she took this course "as a means of acquiring knowledge you can't get in the classroom and for the chance to get to know people in the business of communications." Alyssa feels this course will help her get the "hands-on training necessary to pursue a career in communications."



## INQUIRING REPORTER

by Laura Anne Allen

If you could change one thing at Ford, what would it be?

"We should be able to bring visitors to our school during school hours."

—Maria Rosa Leone, 207

"The dress code."

—Kathleen McAllister, 109

"Let's add co-ed bathrooms!"

—Gene Reynolds, 309

"Mr. Chiusano's knocking of America."

—Mark Crawford, 303

"New baseball equipment for the j.v. baseball team."

—Richard McManus, 109

"Seniors should be permitted to leave school for lunch."

—Ann Gorowski, 305

"Let's have more dress-down days!"

—Joan Scotto, 112

"Let's export our school food to third-world countries."

—Tania Serrano, 411

"Let's have four days of school (per week) with Mondays off."

—Carol Oliver, 408

## ECOLOGY CLUB PLANTS TREES



Members of the Ecology Club pictured above (left to right): Douglas Renna, John Trindade, Mrs. Skalecky (Moderator), John Palmeri, Louie Hernandez, Eddie Risano, John Kalb, Laura Allen, Maria Orbe and Josephine Diorio.

by Carolyn Dopman

This year Bishop Ford's ecology club, moderated by Mrs. Skalecky, sponsored its Sixth (Almost) Annual Tree Planting Collection.

On March 21st and 22nd each student was asked to contribute at least ten cents to the collection. All of the

money collected will be used to purchase trees to plant around the school building.

If each student contributed a dime, the club collected \$172.50. If each student contributed a dime each day of the collection, the total gross was \$345.00.

## FORD FIRST IN VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

by Martin Brennan

This past decade of our nation's history has seen a severe decline in voter participation in elections. This fact is most clearly illustrated by young voters. This group, which fought so hard in the sixties and seventies for the right to vote, now finds itself in a state of rapidly declining participation in government.

The low youth-voter turnout is due partly to a lack of interest and partly to a lack of knowledge about the voter registration process.

To stimulate political activity among young adults and to educate them in methods of voting, a group called the Foundation for Youth Involvement was formed. The foundation contacted Mr. Campanero to seek his assistance in involving the Bishop Ford community in their project. The foundation was planning to hold a contest among all of the high schools in Brooklyn to see which school could register the greatest percentage of eligible voters. Among the prizes to be won was a party to be thrown by sponsor KISS F.M.

Interested, Mr. Campanero, along with Joe Selch and Junior Class President Robert Fontanelli, attended a conference which instructed them as to how to organize a voter-registration drive.

In March the drive began. There was an assembly for seniors at which a representative from State Senator Joe Montalto (a Ford graduate) spoke on behalf of the power of the vote. As a result, 331 out of 337 eligible voters (24 juniors and 307 seniors) registered to vote. That's an amazing 98%!

However, registration is only the first step. The true test of the drive's success will come in November when we will see how many of those registered actually voted.



Mayor Edward I. Koch, Brother Michel Bettigole, O.S.F. and Junior Class President Robert Fontanelli at conference on voter registration at City Hall on March 13. Ford was number one in the New York City High School Voter Registration Drive.

The Bishop Ford Chalk Circle Players will present Sidney Kingsley's "Detective Story" in our auditorium on Friday, May 11 and Saturday, May 12 at 8 P.M.

## HIGHPOINT

Bishop Ford Central Catholic High School  
500 19th Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11215

Martin Brennan ..... Editor-in-Chief  
Sonia Maria Lopez ..... News Editor  
Chris Razukas ..... Feature Editor  
Laura Ann Allen ..... Sports Editor  
Michael Hernandez ..... Photography Editor  
Louis Hernandez ..... Art Editor  
Michael Hardman ..... Circulation Editor  
**Staff:** Josephine Diorio, Andrew Renna, Carolyn Dopman, Pat Santangelo, Mark Crawford, Josephine Halkias.  
Brother Michel Bettigole, O.S.F. .... Principal  
George A. McKay ..... Advisor

## READING CAN BE HABIT FORMING

by Andrew Renna

During the past several years English scores on scaled tests, particularly the S.A.T., have steadily declined. The major reason for this decline is lack of reading among grade school and high school students. Reading is the key to learning. Through reading a person builds vocabulary, improves reading comprehension and learns proper usage, all of which are main testing areas on standardized English tests. Although these areas can be improved through other methods, reading is by far the most effective.

The habit of reading can be acquired at any age, but it is best to begin when you are young. The reason for this is that a younger person will be more open to various topics and points of view than an older person who has more or less set his mind. Also, a younger person can begin with easy reading material and gradually work up to more difficult material, while an older person will not be satisfied with a Danny Dunn or Encyclopedia Brown adventure story.

Years ago, many high schools gave out booklets from which students were to choose books to read over the summer. Many students never read any of these books and, as a result, many schools, including Ford, dropped the program. Since then English teachers here at Ford have taken it upon themselves to assign their classes books to read and have regular testing on them. Although this sounds good, there are problems. Some teachers let their students select the books to read in order to get them acquainted with reading. This is not the problem. The problem is that some teachers assign books which are difficult to a person who is not familiar with reading. Also, some teachers continuously assign books pressing their point of view (anti-Americanism, pro-Communism, anti-war, etc.). This is not good for a person who is in the process of establishing his views on various topics. Varying points of view are necessary for balanced reading. A problem like this can be solved through compromise with the teacher or reading books on your own with contrasting views.

The English teacher cannot be the only one to encourage reading; you must read on your own if you expect to improve your over-all understanding of the English language.



## FACULTY NOTES

Fr. Bill Lewis has written the following:

1983

"Creation-Science: A Challenge To Understand a Folk Tradition." **Anthropology Newsletter**. Vol. 24, No. 3, March, 1983, pp. 12-13.

"Ecumenism and Third World Religions." **Chicago Studies**. September, 1983, pp. 18-27.

"The Ecumenists and Culture." **Ecumenical Trends**. June, 1983, pp. 65-68.

"The Body and Culture." Accepted for publication in **Quarterly Journal of Ideology**.

"A Cultural Perspective for Ecumenists." Accepted for publication in **Ecumenical Trends**.

"Death Education For the Health Professional." A book review accepted for publication in **Medical Anthropology**.

1981

"Ecumenical Zealots and Religious Diversity." **Ecumenical Trends**. March, 1981, pp. 139-142.

1980

"Evaluation of Challenge." Filed with Challenge and Community Services of New York City.

1975

"Imagination and Religion." **Conversations**, publication of Graymoor Ecumenical Institute, Spring, 1975, pp. 11-13.

1968

"Married Deacons." **Catholic Digest**. Fall, 1968, pp. 22-26.

1967

"Married Deacons." **At-One-Ment**. Vol. IX, 1967, pp. 57-72.

1965

"Ruminations On the Patristic Tradition." **At-One-Ment**. Vol. VII, 1965, pp. 7-16.





## LOUIE HERNANDEZ: THE TRUTH



Lou and the Crew, clockwise, from the top: Richard McManus, James Toppin, Gary Aronsen, Louie Hernandez, Chris Razukas, "General" Joe Selch and John "Muge" Comis.

by Chris Razukas

Louie Hernandez, the spotlight is on you in this issue of **Highpoint**!

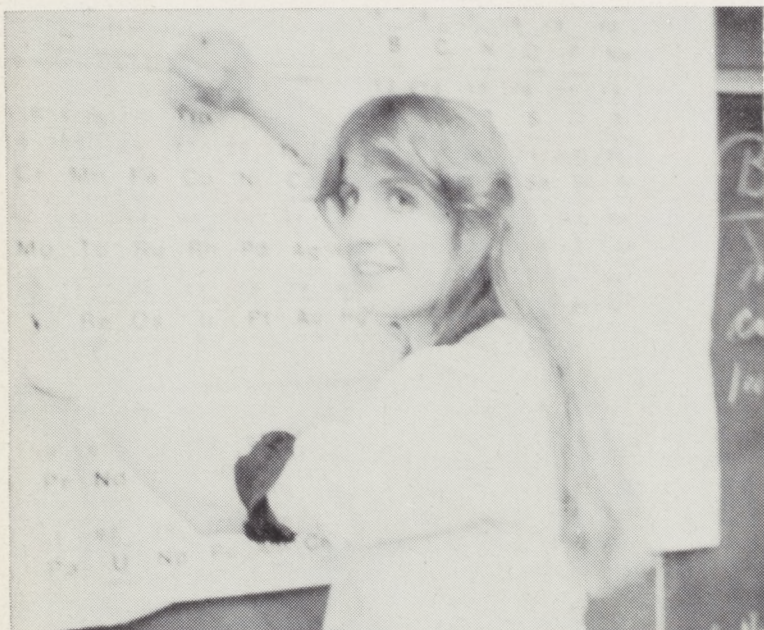
Louie's a Cancer whose favorite color is blue. He likes all kinds of music, especially disco and rock. His favorite artists are Duran, Duran, Billy Joel, and "Weird" Al Yankovic.

In the future Louie said he would like to go to the New York Institute of Technology, where he will major in computer software engineering or architecture. On the courses he's taking: "I take 'em all. It's suicidal how many courses I take." His favorite movies

were Cannery Row and Return of the Jedi. His favorite actor is Jabba the Hutt.

During his free time, Louie enjoys "hanging out in the lab." He says that, "I love the Zoo Crew." He also enjoys having fun and most sports. He is the senior coordinator of the Ecology Club. He admires, "Chris Razukas, of course, and anyone who knows how to have fun." At home he has a boaconstrictor (Cuddles), mice (which he feeds to Cuddles), and a cat (Tisa). His favorite food is sweet-n-sour pork. In closing, Louie remarked, "People are too serious; if you want to have fun, have fun."

## WHO IS MARY PLUNKETT?



"The Plunk" in action.

by Chris Razukas,  
Protector of Truth, Justice,  
and The American Way

In this issue, **Highpoint** zooms in on Mary Plunkett, the famed teacher of Ford's Science Department. Ms. Plunkett is a Capricorn who likes chocolate, chocolate-chip ice cream, and whose favorite color is green. She describes herself as "mild and easy-going" but says she "keeps a lot inside."

Ms. Plunkett went to St. Francis College where she majored in biology. Today, Ms. Plunkett goes to graduate school at LIU, where she "can't wait to finish" her degree in microbiology. At Ford, Ms. Plunkett teaches subjects an esoteric as bio-science and general chemistry.

During her leisure time, Ms.

Plunkett enjoys listening to rock music. Her favorite groups are The Who and Grateful Dead. She also enjoys bike-riding ("makes me feel very free, like a bird"). Ms. Plunkett enjoys reading romance novels and detective stories, her favorite novels being *Trinity* and *Captain and the Kings*. Her favorite movies were *Ice Station Zebra*, *The Quiet Man* and *The Star Wars* saga. Her favorite actors are Richard Gere, John Wayne and Christopher Reeves, and her favorite memory is meeting Burt Reynolds and Al Pacino in person.

In closing, Ms. Plunkett says her future is "uncertain" and that "Students here have great personalities, but should take education seriously, since it's necessary for them to go on with their lives."

## MAN IN THE HALLWAYS

by Chris Razukas,  
Defender of the Weak

Question—If you could be anyone else in creation, who would you be?

"Chris Razukas; he's a little eccentric, but that is the kind of guy I want to be."

—Louie Hernandez, 405

"Speedy Gonzales."

—Manny Gonzales, 305

"The Jolly Green Giant."

—Mickey Hardman, 206

"Aphrodite, so I could have control over love. A mermaid, so I could've met Hercules. The girlfriend of a big rock star."

—Ms. Sarnelle

"Adam . . . I like the idea of starting something fresh."

—Al Gancitano, 206

"Ingrid Bergman . . . (she's) classic, beautiful, stylistic, intelligent."

—Ms. Petralia

## UNMASKED: BRIAN DOLAN

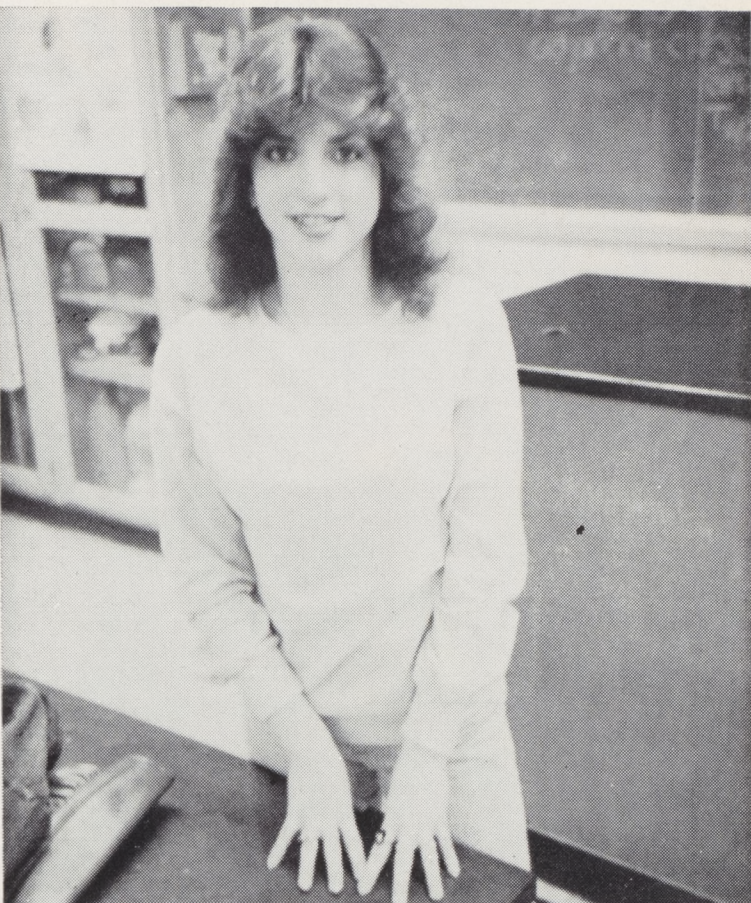
by Chris Razukas,  
Hero of the Masses

I would like to point out that Brian Dolan expressed considerable concern regarding how good he would look in this article. He insisted some of the more "interesting" remarks be edited, and I agreed with him; Brian is much bigger than I am.

Brian is going to Stonybrook University where he will major in physical therapy in the hope of becoming a physical therapist. He's a Capricorn whose favorite color is turquoise, and he describes himself as "free and easy."

Brian's favorite ice cream flavor is chocolate-chocolate chip. His favorite actor is Dustin Hoffman and his favorite actress Meryl Streep. If he could, he would be a polar bear, because he loves cold weather. His favorite T.V. shows are *Cheers*, *Mash*, and *Hill Street Blues*. His favorite movies were *Tootsie*, *Fast Times at Ridgemont High* and the *Star Wars* saga.

Brian's favorite food is pizza, his favorite drink, Dr. Pepper. In school he is on the Dirt Patrol (the senior gossip squad), intramurals, Senior Activities Council, National Honor Society, and he's Vice-President of the Student Council. His favorite teacher is Dr. Defina, who, he says,



The Living Legend: Donna Homan

by Chris Razukas,  
Resident Jedi Apprentice

Donna Homan: Who is she? That's what this article attempts to explore. The questions were simple; now you get the answers. During my interview, I discovered the real truth.

Donna wishes to go to New York University and major in either political science or pre-law. Then she would like to go on to graduate school, marry ("of course") and have kids ("lots of kids"). She would like to be a lawyer ("It's important to represent people"). She intends to be very rich and to travel a lot. She describes herself as success oriented and says the most important thing in her life is her future.

During her leisure time Donna (who is a Pisces) enjoys dancing, which she has been doing for seven years. In school she was junior

class president. She ran track for four years and was varsity cheerleader captain. Her favorite movies are scary movies ("really, really scary movies"). Her favorite TV shows are *Cheers* and *Dynasty*.

Donna says she still believes in Santa Claus, but, "The Easter bunny has got to go." Her favorite flower is a white rose ("Because it symbolizes true love"). She would love to be a black panther ("It's sleek and sexy"). Her favorite drink is white wine. She admires Mr. Fernandez, "Because he has a lot of integrity." Her pets include a dog (Coco) and a cat (Moo).

In closing, Donna says her four years here have been "great." She fondly remembers freshman year, when "everything was perfect." She feels that, "People care for you, and that's good, but sometimes they get too involved."

The Star Trek Games Club is still accepting members.

If interested, see Mr. D'Orazio or Chris Razukas.

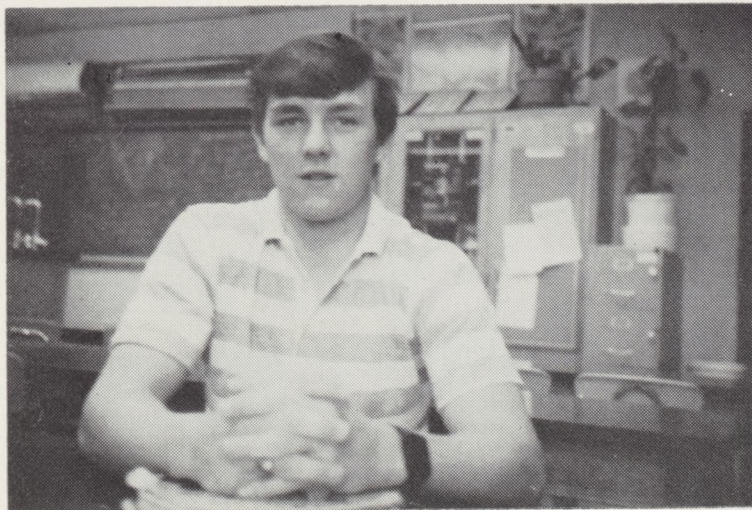
## COMPUTER CLUB

by Pat Santangelo

The Computer Club at Bishop Ford gives inexperienced students without computers a chance to work with computers and students with computers a chance to practice and learn more among friends.

Mr. Huchla, the moderator of the club, gives his expert advice to students so they will become more familiar with the fundamentals of the computer, its language and use. Since everyone works at his own pace, eventually each individual will be able to work on harder programs, and later, write his own programs and save them on diskettes.

Whether it be playing games, solving mathematical problems, or just practicing using Basic, the Computer Club gives students background on the computer, and the club members still manage to have a good time.



Vice President Brian Dolan



## GERACI FLEXES FOR SUCCESS

by Josephine Halkias

Life and success are nothing more than someone's dream of yesterday. What is there around us that did not start out as a dream, a spring dream, a summer dream, a dream of a beautiful sunny day and a glorious sparkling sun high up in the skies. Today's realities were dreamt yesterday. This is how yesterday's kids become today's great athletes. This is how today's kids become the pride of their communities and Beach Body Building." Anthony Geraci's dream is to Colombo.

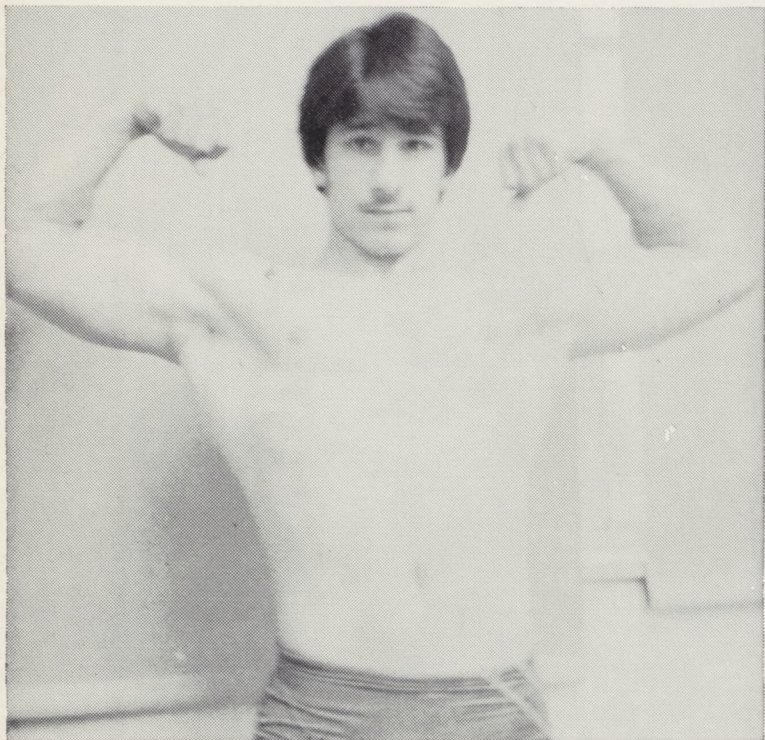
Anthony Genaci, a sophomore at Bishop Ford High School, is such a dreamer, who knows just how to make a dream a reality. For the last three years his daily exercising routine has consisted of a three-hour workout. He started exercising at home three years ago, and then for the last year he has been working out at "Bath Beach Body Building." Anthony Geraci's dream is to become a world-famous body builder, like his idol, Frank Colombo.

Anthony's daily routine consists of benching 280-300, curling 150, squats 250, repetitions 350.

As we went to press he was participating in the "Mr. New York Contest" on April 7th at Lafayette High School in New York City. His diet contains non-fattening foods with high-protein content. All this dieting and exercising keeps our athlete in high gear, and even though he feels nervous about the upcoming test of his strength, he feels quite confident that he will make it as the winner.

Talking to Anthony, it becomes very interesting to realize that it's not the muscles that make the athlete, it is a combination of many factors: skill, endurance and muscle coordination.

How do his parents feel about their son? Well, they are very proud. His mother says, "Do whatever you want." His father, at the same time, says, "Go for it." Everyone at Bishop Ford can feel Anthony's vibrations and, as we see his dream becoming fulfilled, we can't help but feel a great sense of pride.



Anthony Geraci

**SUPPORT**  
**BISHOP FORD'S BLOOD DRIVE**  
**MAY 4, 1984**

## BOWLING INTRAMURALS

by Mark Crawford

Bowling takes place every Wednesday afternoon at Park Circle Lanes. Mr. Anderson is the moderator of this and all intramurals.

His behind-the-scenes secretaries are Susan and Barbara Trukawinski.

Bowling intramurals has twenty-four teams divided into four divisions, North, South, East and West.

Bowling began in September and is winding down to the playoffs.

The team in each division with the most wins gets a playoff spot. So far those teams are, for the North Division, The Titans (Hector Sanchez, Robert Vivo, Ed

Schiller and Robert Romagnolo) and The Strats (Chris Davis, Mike Turner, Denny Marchetta and Frank Grossi); for the South Division, The Best Team (Mr. Grella, Mr. Polansky, Mr. Iavazzi and Ms. Saldana) and The Derelicts (Joe Navarra, Pete Navarra, Pat Monachino and Cesar Claro); for the East Division (Mark Crawford, Anthony Vollaro, Dominic Conti and Fady Hyacke) and The J. Team (Mr. Radigan, Mr. Braganza, Ms. Casazzone and Ms. Trani); and for the West Division, F.T.W. (Santo Curatolo, Anthony Gangemi, Lisa Crespo and James Dudich, and The Avengers (Gerardo Martinez, Fabio Vozila, Marko Brodica and Henry Rusek).

The Playoffs begin April 4.

## GIRLS' TENNIS

by Laura Anne Allen

"Even though the competition is very tough, hopefully the teamwork and the dedication will get us into the playoffs." Those are the words of Mrs. Schmidt, coach of the Bishop Ford girls' tennis team.

With only three starters returning from last year, the fairly young tennis team is practicing extremely hard three days a week and on weekends to get into those playoffs.

The team mainly consists of six seniors, Stephanie Kiezak, Jennifer Mills, Adrienne Palmieri, Maria Pira, Maria Sciascia and Laura Prior, six sophomores, Laura Allen, Margaret Belizaire, Indra Gandy, Tanya Garcia, Maria Gutierrez and Roxanna King, and two freshmen, Christine Raiola and Tanya Russel.

Stephanie Kiezak, a senior, commented, "The team is made up of many seniors, so we will all be trying to do our best in our last year."

"The tennis team has given me a lot of experience and has improved my game. The members are always helpful and nice," remarked Margaret Belizaire.

With their first match starting April 2, these girls are striving to do better than last year's fifth-place finish in the Brooklyn-Queens Championship. We wish them the best of luck.

## SPORTLIGHT: CAROLYN DOPMAN

by Sonia Maria Lopez

This issue of *Highpoint* focuses on senior, Carolyn Dopman. She is presently captain of both the basketball and volleyball teams, and her interest in sports goes as far back as her grammar school days at Our Lady of Angels, where she participated in track, basketball, softball and volleyball.

For the past four years Carolyn has coached a girls' intermediate basketball team and is presently in the process of starting a volleyball clinic for younger girls. "Techniques learned at a young age (8-9 years old) help mold a really good volleyball player," says Carolyn.

Carolyn feels being involved in Bishop Ford athletics has been a good learning experience. "Becoming close with all the girls on the team" is the thing she feels she will miss most after graduation, "They're good friends and will always be remembered."

As captain of the girls' varsity volleyball team she has seen the team through this year's undefeated season, their capturing of the Brooklyn-Queens Championship and 3rd place in the State finals.

After graduation Carolyn hopes to attend either Yale, Hofstra, or Stonybrook and major in computer science and mathematics. She wants to go away because she feels, "Going away is important toward becoming more independent and making your own decisions in an effort to become a better person."



Ford's Freshman Basketball Team took first place in the C.H.S.A.A. City Championships held on March 7 at Fordham University. This is a first for Ford: we're number one in New York City! Pictured above, kneeling, left to right: Vince Jackson, John Robinson, Jason Prussing, Bobby Cooper, Mark Jabir and Brian Leary. Standing, left to right: Manager Gino Goyco, Assistant Coach Rich Ferraiolo, Athletic Director Raymond Nash, Assistant Coach Daniel Piselli, Tom McFee, Principal Brother Michel Bettigole, O.S.F., Harry Gordon, Anthony Markle, Mike Yannaco, Nick Meyer, Head Coach Forte Bellino, Manager Jimmy Canade.

## EDUCATION OF THE AMERICAN ATHLETE

by Martin F. Brennan

While vacationing in New Jersey recently, I happened to spot a most interesting advertisement in a local newspaper. The ad described a unique athletic training camp. This camp was unique because it did not focus on developing any particular athletic skill; this camp was a school. The camp, situated in "sunny Elizabeth, New Jersey," offered "an intensive one-week course aimed at developing all of the mental skills necessary to survive in modern professional athletics." Being an aspiring athlete, I couldn't pass up such an opportunity. I paid the seven-hundred-dollar fee and started on my way.

The school, which was sponsored by the American Athletics Scholastic Society (A.A.S.S.), was located directly across from the New Jersey Democratic Club. After indoctrination and room assignments, we proceeded to our first class. Virtually every pro sport was represented, though the majority of us were basketball, baseball, and football players. Every part of the country was represented.

Our first class was economics. Despite the facts that seventy percent of pro football players never obtain their degrees, most baseball players don't go to college, and some basketball players can barely count as high as the scores they produce, these men seemed very intelligent. They already knew big words like *re-ne-go-ti-a-tion* and *ar-bi-tra-tion*. Professor Doolittle advised us to work hard for at least one year of our lives to insure success. After this one successful season, we were promptly to utilize one of the aforementioned big words to win ourselves a million-dollar contract. Then we could sit back and relax.

The next class I attended was "The Dynamics of Trade." The professor diligently explained the ins and outs (and highs and lows) of specialized imports. We were instructed to do all trading as discreetly as possible through an indirect source. When Joe Star, M.V.P. questioned Professor E. Legal, B.S.D. on this, the professor was so kind as to explain the patriotism involved. He expounded, "You are indirectly and anonymously helping to pay foreign debts to U.S. banks through your support of sagging foreign economies. Altruism is, of course, an expected virtue among athletes." To clarify his point, the professor suggested the lecture on Columbian agriculture.

I don't remember anything from that lecture, but it did leave me with an indescribable thirst for more such knowledge. It was now the second day of my adventure and I couldn't help but notice the constant sound of hundreds of sniffing noses. Despite this distraction, I found myself becoming engrossed in a lesson on the professional agent.

The instructor was Frank D. Leach. He told us that all respectable ballplayers hired agents to do the wheeling and stealing from the owners. He instructed us on the finer points of contracts: no trade clauses, no-interest loans, incentive clauses, deferred payments, etc. He proudly informed us about the time he won a life-time supply of puppy chow for a client's puppy. We were all very impressed.

At lunch I visited the gift shop. They had the usual spikes, bats, helmets, and balls. However, they also had a section dedicated to the "Modern Athlete." In here they had limousine rentals, agent beepers, spoons, straws, the Madison Avenue hotline (for on-the-spot product endorsement), and a phone book with a lot of South American names in it.

After lunch we were instructed to devise and complete a project on what we had learned by the sixth day for our final exam. One industrious baseball player told me about his project. He was going to replace the lime foul line with cocaine. This way, whenever he had to field a groundball he could catch a quick snort—ingenious. He would definitely get high marks.

At four o'clock, I received a call from home. My father was trying to tell me that an agent was at the house with a contract, but he was out of breath. He wanted me to come home immediately. I hesitated. There was still so much to be learned, such lectures as, "Dugout Promiscuity," "Performance: The Anabolic Approach," and "How to Beat the Rap," but I just had to go. After all, who's got time for an education when there's a contract to be signed?



